

Northwich Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1949.

NORTHWICH

W. HOBSON & SON, PRINTERS.

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Northwich Rural District Council.

Health Report for 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the district during the year 1949.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	... ..	57,557 acres
Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	... ..	32,660
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) including "squatters" huts at Hartford Manor Camp	... ..	10,212
Rateable value (1st October, 1949)	... ..	£168,224
Sum represented by a penny rate (March, 1949)	£630 13 7	

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Total. M. F.

Live Births	{	Legitimate....	578	296	282	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population...	18·21
		Illegitimate...	17	9	8		
Stillbirths	{	Legitimate ...	14	7	7	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	26·18
		Illegitimate...	2	2	—		
Deaths...	...	...	319	152	167	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	9·76
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor							9·86

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.			Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.		
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	—
No. 30 Other maternal causes		1	...	...	...	1·63
Total	...	1	...	...	...	1·63

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	42·01
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	39·78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	117·6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	70
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	3

The following table compares the main statistics for 1949 with the years 1939—1948:—

	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis
1939.	29,020	15·67	11·00	41·14	52	9
1940.	30,030	15·25	12·70	58·18	52	7
1941.	30,850	15·59	10·98	36·58	42	11
1942.	29,800	16·17	10·36	45·64	43	9
1943.	28,900	16·47	10·72	37·81	40	11
1944.	28,730	18·16	10·47	30·65	52	14
1945.	28,460	17·39	11·59	50·50	55	18
1946.	29,640	18·04	11·57	28·03	48	13
1947.	30,650	20·22	11·97	29·03	56	5
1948.	31,790	18·71	10·09	23·56	42	4
1949.	32,660	18·21	9·76	42·01	70	5

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1949.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	1	5
7. Other Tubercular Diseases	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	2	2
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Ac. Polio-myel: and Polio-enceph:	—	2	2
12. Ac.: inf: enceph:	—	—	—
13. Cancer of B: cav: & oesoph (M)	4	0	4
uterus (F)	—	3	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	10	16
15. Cancer of Breast	—	10	10
16. Cancer of all other sites	17	20	37
17. Diabetes	1	2	3
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	13	26	39
19. Heart Diseases	51	47	98
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	6	7	13
21. Bronchitis	6	6	12
22. Pneumonia	5	9	14
20. Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	2	3
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases...	3	3	6
28. Nephritis	4	1	5
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
31. Premature Birth	1	3	4
32. Congenital debility and Malformations	6	2	8
33. Suicide	2	—	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	5	—	5
35. Other Violent Causes	2	2	4
36. All other Causes	13	7	20
	152	167	319

Section B.
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR
THE AREA.

(A) Provided by the District Council.

(1) Staff.

W. S. Slater. M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid- Cheshire Districts and since July 5th, 1948 with the County Coun- cil as Divisional M.O and Regional Hospital Board as Medical Superintendent of Davenham Fever Hospital).
Sister I. D. Rogerson	Trained Nurse (part-time) (Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation).	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid- Cheshire Districts and since July 5th, 1948 with the County Coun- cil).
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole-time).	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid- Cheshire Districts).
J. S. Carrie Cert. R.S.I. Cert. Meat & Food Inspection. Cert. Sanitary Science. Cert. Smoke Inspection & Boiler House Management. Hon. Cert. Hygiene R.I. Public Health & Hygiene.	Chief Sanitary Inspector	(Northwich Rural Dis- trict Council only).
H. R. Worsley.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector. (At present studying for Royal Sanitary Institute Examination).	do.
W. P. Musgrave.	Assistant to Sanitary Inspector. (At present studying for Royal Sanitary Institute Examination).	do.
Clerical Staff	2 persons (whole-time).	do.

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Service now undertakes the examination of water, milk and ice cream supplies and pathological specimens of all descriptions, free of charge to the Northwich Rural District Council. This service proved adequate during the year.

(3) Other Health Services.

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Rural Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) Provided by the County Council.

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Rural Area under the following Services:— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Venereal Diseases, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, etc., etc.

(C) Provided by the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council).

These are for the most part “personal” Services and are therefore set out in some detail for the general information of the members.

(1) VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

The arrangements which before the 5th July, 1948 had proved reasonably satisfactory and for which the County District Councils were then responsible, were continued. The immunisation treatment has therefore been given at:—

- (1) Sessions held monthly at the major Child Welfare Centres in the District and at Schools.
- (2) At the patient's home or doctors' surgeries.

Individual letters of invitation are sent out to the parents of children just before their first birthday; this is followed up later with letters advising a reinforcement injection for children about to enter school.

Details of the work done in the Northwich Rural District and the numbers immunised are set out later in the report.

(b) **Vaccination.**

Vaccination being no longer compulsory, we now depend on the receipt from General Practitioners of Record Cards for information of the vaccination work being carried out in the area.

The number of Record Cards received are set out later in the report.

(c) **Preventive Inoculation against Whooping Cough.**

The Divisional Committee during the year decided to make available Whooping Cough Vaccine for use by the local doctors, when requested. At the same time it was decided not to publicise unduly or stress the value of the treatment, because of the uncertainty of the vaccine as an immunisation agent. The extent to which this free issue of Whooping Cough vaccine has been used in the Northwich Rural District is recorded later in the report.

(2) **AMBULANCE SERVICE.**

This service has greatly increased since 5th July, 1948. The position regarding staff and vehicles at the end of 1949 to serve Mid-Cheshire as a whole, is set out below:—

Staff (whole or part-time)	...	...	...	13
Vehicles	...	...	...	9

The Mid-Cheshire Ambulance Depot is situated at Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich.

Frequent use has been made of the train service for long distance transport of patients. The courtesy, co-operation and efficiency displayed by British Railways were outstanding.

(3) **PREVENTION OF ILLNESS AND AFTER-CARE.**

A stock of After-Care equipment has been built up, consisting of such articles as:— Sputum Mugs, Steam Kettles, Assorted Crutches, Backrests, Bath Chairs, Air Beds, etc., etc. This equipment is stored at Hartford Hill Ambulance Depot and at Whitehall. Larger items such as mattresses, spinal carriages, etc., are available to us from the County Stores at Winsford, and these have been drawn upon as required.

The Divisional Committee in particular have considered methods of dealing with the Care and After-Care of Tuberculosis patients. Their work has included the following:—

- (1) The co-ordination needed with the local Housing Authorities to secure the re-housing of persons suffer-

- ing from Tuberculosis, and who cannot, under their present circumstances, be isolated.
- (2) The provision of Chalets in exceptional cases.
 - (3) The provision of Domestic Helps.
 - (4) The "rounding-up" of contacts for examination by the Chest Physicians.

(4) **DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.**

This Service, from very small beginnings, has now grown to considerable proportions and at the time of writing a number of local households are receiving domestic assistance varying from a few hours to 44 hours per week. It is evident that this branch of the Service is much appreciated. Numerous letters of thanks have been received. A large number of the families assisted are receiving Domestic Help indefinitely. These are usually elderly and infirm persons who, with some regular domestic help are able to carry on living at home. Without such assistance there seems little doubt that they would need Institutional admission.

Where assessments, according to the County scale have been likely to cause hardship, they have been reduced, with the authority of the Committee.

(D) **Davenham Isolation Hospital.**

This Hospital, which is now the responsibility of the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, working under the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, served adequately the needs of the District and admitted 112 Northwich Rural patients during 1949.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies. — During the year 1949 work has commenced in connection with the laying of distribution mains to supply the Parish of Utkinton, and it is expected that early in 1950 the piped supply will be available to the public.

New extensions have been carried out by the Water Board during the year to meet the housing developments carried out by the Council. These works have been carried out on housing schemes in the Parishes of Weaverham, Little Budworth, Lostock Gralam, Barnton, Cuddington and Rudheath.

Water Samples.—The Water Board have kept us well informed of their sampling activities and well over 70 copies of Rural samples have been passed on to me. all but one of these were found to be satisfactory.

There is no change to report on my 1948 report as to the availability of the supply, either direct to the houses or by means of standpipes.

During the summer there was a possibility that one of the Water Board's gathering grounds may have become contaminated with Anthrax spores arising from the bleeding of an animal, unsuspected at the time as suffering from Anthrax, at one of farms adjoining the gathering ground. It was at the time considered possible that heavy rains, which were due after the prolonged dry summer, may wash the spores through to the underground supplies. Most careful observations and repeated examinations of the bore-hole water, carried out by the Board, fortunately failed to show evidence of any ready access of surface water to the underground supplies.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—The following statement, for which I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Birtwistle, the Engineer and Surveyor of the Council, sets out in some detail the main drainage schemes and activities of the Council during 1949:—

“In connection with the Delamere Station Road sewerage proposals, the Council have still not received approval to proceed with the work, as matters in which the Water Board are affected have still not been finalised.

Regarding the removal of the Sewage Disposal Works adjoining the Council's houses at Delamere Schools, an inquiry has been held by the Ministry of Health into the proposal, and it is hoped that the approval of the Ministry will be received to enable the work to proceed early in 1950.

Cotebrook Village, Utkinton.—A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health, and it is expected that an inquiry into the proposal will be held early in 1950, after which it is hoped the work of construction of the scheme will be put in hand during the year.

Weaverham Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.—The scheme is well advanced and by early 1950 the whole of the sewers and construction of the Sewage Disposal Works will be completed.

Generally — Small installations have been provided to serve the houses erected during the year at Crowton, Little Leigh, Utkinton (Quarry Bank), and extensions to a small installation made at Nether Peover.

New sewers of considerable length, both surface and foul water, have been laid on the major housing sites at Barnton.

Weaverham, Cuddington and Lostock Gralam, and small extensions of sewers carried out at Acton, Allostock, Anderton, Davenham, Hartford, Little Budworth, Marton, Moulton, Tarporley and Wincham."

Rivers Pollution.—The organic pollution of streams in the Council's district is certainly not worse than previously, and in many cases must now be much improved by reason of the number of new revolving sprinklers installed in connection with private houses and farms.

Closet Accommodation.—During the year 11 conversions were carried out with Council assistance. There must, however, be some 250 pail closets waiting to be dealt with in the bigger parishes of Rudheath, Cuddington and Weaverham. It is hoped to reduce this figure considerably when the Weaverham Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works are completed and when the Ministry of Health's restriction on capital expenditure is removed.

Night Soil Collection.—Under this heading, Mr. J. S. Carrie, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

"The Council undertakes the collection of night-soil by direct labour in the following Parishes:—

Marston	Anderton
Wincham	Comberbach
Rudheath (part)	Darnhall (part)
Acton	Wimboldsley (part)
Cuddington	Oakmere (part)
Weaverham	

Public Cleansing Service.—The Chief Sanitary Inspector further reports:—

"The Public Cleansing Service now covers the whole of the Council's area. This expansion has taken place over the past 12 years, which is no mean achievement. During the year the service was extended to the parishes of Tarporley, Rushton, Utkinton, Comberbach and Anderton. The work is carried out by direct labour operating from central scavenging depot at Hartford. The fleet consists of:—

2 S.D. Freighters	1 International
1 Bedford	1 Dennis

The labour force employed is as follows:

1 General Foreman	15 Scavenging Loaders
5 Drivers	

Controlled tipping methods have been introduced and in this respect effective use is being made of a recently purchased Aveling-Barford Calf Dozer.

Large industrial development is taking place at the I.C.I. Group of Works and in consequence the population of the district

is rapidly increasing due to the influx of labour from the Merseyside areas. This is magnifying the problems of refuse collection and disposal, and to meet this increased demand the Council has on order one Dennis Freighter and one Dennis Cesspool Emptier."

Salvage of Waste Materials. — Although comparisons of revenue with last year's figures show a decrease of £169, the work of salvage collection has been well maintained.

During the Year 1949.

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	199	1	2	17
Scrap Iron	...	...	...	...	24	13	3	—
Textiles	...	...	...	...	20	5	—	—
Bottles & Jars	...	...	...	...	—	2	3	27
Cullet	...	...	...	...	6	10	3	—

Since the inception of the Salvage Scheme in April, 1940, the following collections have been made:—

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	1529	16	3	8
Textiles	...	...	...	...	175	18	1	3
Scrap Iron	...	...	...	...	472	2	3	—
Tins	...	...	...	...	287	9	3	—
Bottles	...	...	...	...	30	12	2	9
Jars	...	...	...	...	31	3	1	18
Bones	...	...	...	...	23	18	—	—
Cullet	...	...	...	...	35	12	1	—

Recreational Sites and Playing Fields. — The Council's activities under this heading can be summarized as follows:—

During the year assistance has been given to various Parish Councils in their efforts to provide recreational and playing field facilities, and in this respect Weaverham are now proceeding with the planning of land they are to acquire from the Council adjoining the new housing development off Withen's Lane.

At Davenham, land adjoining the Council's extended development will be made available.

Rudheath — discussions have taken place on behalf of the Parish Council with the Planning Authorities with a view to finding a site for these purposes.

Lostock Gralam — land adjoining the Council's housing scheme has been made available to the Parish Council for development as a playing field area.

Cuddington — a reservation made in the Housing Estate now being developed will soon be available for recreational purposes.

In addition, the Council have been active in considering draft proposals for the development of the Neighbourhood Centres for Weaverham, Cuddington, Barnton and Rudheath, and it is expected that during 1950 consideration to further areas will be proceeded with.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no public swimming baths in the Council's district, but there are several private ones as follows:—

Fourways Cafe, Oakmere	
I.C.I. Bath, Acton	} Not available to general public.
Marbury Hall Club	

Samples were taken from two of the above during 1949 and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

Date.	Sample.	Report.
28th June, 1949	Sample of swimming-bath water from Marbury Hall Swimming Club.	"Satisfactory"
28th June, 1949	Sample of swimming-bath water from Fourways Club, Oakmere.	"Unsatisfactory"
13th July, 1949	Sample of swimming-bath water from Fourways Club, Oakmere.	"Satisfactory"

Destruction of Rats and Mice. — During the year 162 premises were treated, involving 1,436 operational visits. The contract figures for the year amounted to £430, and the amounts received in connection with isolated clearances totalled £25 15s. 1d. These figures show an increase over last year of £200. The Council again operated jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the treatment of rats in sewers and will receive appropriate grants in this connection.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

Camping Sites.—The following camping sites continue in operation:—

1. Allways Cafe, Allstock
2. S. Worth, Crabtree Garage, Oakmere.
3. Mrs. Speachley, Eddisbury Hill.
4. L. K. Beckwith, Eddisbury Hill.
5. Sandy Lane, Weaverham — 2 sites.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made.	Number.	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Compl ed with	Issued	Compl ed with
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspection) ..	344	63	47	10	10
2. Dwelling Houses (overcrowding) ..	74	32	32	..	..
3. Moveable Dwellings	52	—	—	..	..
4. Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings	294	22	22	..	..
5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools ..	224	41	31	..	..
6. Ditches and Watercourses	16	—	—	..	..
7. Offensive Accumulations	14	1	1	..	..
8. Keeping of Animals	15	—	—	..	..
9. Provision of Ashbins	119	117	41	..	..
10. Supervision of Refuse Collection ..	186	—	—	..	..
11. Supervision of Refuse Tips	148	—	—	..	..
12. Slaughterhouses	17	—	—	..	..
13. Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared	126	4	4	..	..
14. Dairies and Cowsheds	667	6	5	..	..
15. Factories etc.	102	20	20	..	..
16. Protection & sampling of Water Supplies	13	—	—	..	..
17. Canal Boats	30	6	6	..	..
18. Infectious Diseases, Investigations and Disinfections	119	—	—	..	..
19. Schools, Inspection and Disinfection ..	4	—	—	..	..
20. Disinfection of Premises	163	—	—	..	..
21. Deratisation of Premises	1439	162	162	..	..
22. Smoke Observations	2	2	2	..	..
23. Miscellaneous Disinfestations	34	—	—	..	..
24. Properties—Inspections under Rural Housing Survey	781	—	—	..	..
Totals ..	4983	476	373	10	10

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	107	75	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	60	37	—	—
Total	174	102	16	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	—	4	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	—	4	—	4	—

OUTWORK

Nature of Work.	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served and prosecutions.
Wearing apparel ... Making, etc. ...	1	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	—	—	—	—

Section D.

New Houses.—The provision of new houses during 1949 proceeded very satisfactorily, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Parishes.	Erected by the COUNCIL.	Erected by PRIVATE ENTERPRISE
Acton ...	4	—
Allostock ...	6	—
Anderton ...	6	1
Barnton ...	61	1
Bostock ...	—	—
Byley ...	2	—
Comberbach ...	—	—
Crowton ...	8	—
Cuddington ...	32	1
Darnhall ...	—	—
Davenham ..	8	—
Delamere ...	—	—
Hartford ...	21	6
Lach Dennis ...	—	—
Little Budworth ...	6	—
Little Leigh ...	2	—
Lostock Gralam ...	—	—
Marbury ...	—	—
Marston ...	—	1
Marton ...	4	4
Moulton ...	12	—
Nether Peover ...	10	—
Oakmere ...	—	—
Rudheath ...	37	2
Rushton ...	—	—
Sproston ...	2	—
Stanthorne ...	—	—
Tarporley ...	8	2
Utkinton ..	8	—
Weaverham ...	172	—
Whatecroft ...	—	—
Wimboldsley ...	—	—
Wincham ...	4	—
Total ..	413	20

Concerning conversion and adaptation of properties during the year, work was carried out at Marbury Hall making the building into a Hostel for I.C.I. workers, and also providing five flats. This Company also commenced work of providing bungalows in the Park by converting Army Camp buildings taken over from the Military Authorities, and this work is expected to be completed in 1950.

Towards the end of the year, the Council embarked on a scheme of converting Army huts in Delamere Park into bungalows, and when the whole scheme is completed during 1950 it is expected that some 350 living units will have been provided. These living units have the following accommodation:— living room, working kitchen, bathroom, larder and two or three bedrooms.

The units are provided with main drainage connected to a Sewage Disposal Works built by the Military Authorities to serve the Camp, and drains have been extended in parts to serve units capable of conversion.

A water supply to this Camp was already available.

Hartford Manor Camp, which houses “squatters,” is being cleared as occupants move out by demolition when the huts become vacant.

Rural Housing Survey.—The survey of working-class houses in the district has been continued during the year. An up-to-date review of the survey shows as follows:—

PARISH.	No. of working-class houses inspected (R.V. £20 and under).	No. provisionally regarded as requiring demolition.	No. found to be overcrowded
Anderton	105	16	0
Barnton	942	126	34
Byley	3	2	0
Comberbach	141	40	2
Crowton	3	0	0
Little Budworth	1	1	0
Little Leigh	95	16	4
Lostock Gralam	264	49	2
Marbury	4	0	0
Marston	173	49	9
Moulton	281	28	10
Weaverham	534	49	5
Wimboldsley	2	2	0
Wincham	232	69	15
Total	2780	447	81

Unfit Houses.—During the year, 9 houses were demolished, 8 by Statutory Action and 1 by agreement with the owner.

Housing Act, 1936.

Section 11.

Demolition Orders 9

Section 12.

Closing Order 2

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk.**—135 samples — as against 77 during 1948 — of milk were submitted to the Laboratory during 1949, with the following results:—

GRADE.	B. COLIFORM TEST.		METHYLENE BLUE TEST.		PHOSHPATASE TEST.	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
“ Ordinary ” ...	12	15	19	11	—	—
“ Accredited ” (Raw)	8	2	9	1	—	—
“ T.T. ” (Raw) ...	19	14	31	7	—	—
“ Pasteurised ” ...	—	—	32	5	36	1
“ T.T. Pasteurised ”..	—	—	16	4	20	—

4 samples were submitted to the Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli. with negative results.

Included amongst the above figure of 135 samples were 19 samples of School Milk, of which 4 failed to comply with the prescribed tests. The retailers and producers concerned were immediately informed of these unsatisfactory school supplies.

In addition, 14 successive satisfactory reports on samples of “Pasteurised” milk being produced at a large Milk Depot in the area have been reported to us by the County Health Department.

The number of milk producing farms in the area total 537 categorised as follows:—

Ordinary milk producers	...	...	...	...	250
Accredited milk producers	...	...	...	...	246
Tuberculin Tested milk producers	...	...	...	...	41

The following licences under the Milk Special Designations Order were granted during the year:—

Authorising dealers to use the special designation
“Tuberculin Tested”

(a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only 10

(b) in respect of licence to bottle ... 3

Authorising dealers to use the special designation
“Pasteurised”

(a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only 11

(b) in respect of licence to bottle ... 1

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the
special designation “Tuberculin-Tested” ... 7

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the
special designation “Pasteurised” ... 6

(b) **Meat.**—No regular slaughtering has taken place in the district as all the 17 licensed slaughter-houses are closed. due to the operation of the Ministry of Food's Orders.

Slaughter of Animals Act — 30 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported under this Act, two of which were confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) **Other Foods.**—The following is a summary of meat and other foods condemned during the year:—

32 tins Evaporated Milk	1 tin Apple Sauce
1 bottle Tomato Sauce	1 tin Sardines
1 bottle Chutney	2 tins Grapefruit Juice
55 lbs. Persian Sultanas	2 tins Danish Pork
6 stone Cod Fish	15 lbs. Mustard
2 tins Heinz Beans	77 lbs. Mixed Herbs
7 lbs. Bovine Liver	5½ lbs. Dehydrated Carrots
87 lbs. Fish	21 lbs. Dehydrated Rhubarb
2 tins Salmon	90 lbs. Dried Peaches
75 lbs. Bacon	1 tin Apples
1 tin Carrots	1 tin Bristlings
2 tins Veal Loaf	1 tin Grapes
5 lbs. Cheese	1 jar Pickles
2 tins Steak	3 Bovine Heads. minus
6 tins Peas	Tongues (69 lbs.)
3 tins Fruit	19 lbs. Lungs and Spleens
2 tins Sild	1 tin Lemon & Melon Jam
1 tin Spinach	1 tin Meat & Gravy
8 tins Soup	1 tin Celery Hearts
1 tin Orange Juice	1 tin Apricot Jam
2 tins Apricots	1 tin Cream Vegetables
1 tin Plums	4 Jars Olives
1 tin Mixed Vegetables	198 lbs. Dried Cherries
	3½ lbs. Beef

Food & Drugs Act, 1938.—The Council has on register the following food preparing premises:—

17 Cafes	33 Canteens
12 Fried Fish Shops	17 Ice Cream Premises.
21 Butchers' Premises	55 Hotels as Catering Establishments
16 Bakehouses	

Periodic visits have been paid throughout the year and a high hygienic standard maintained.

Ice Cream.—Five premises hold licences for the sale and manufacture of Ice-Cream and twelve premises for the sale only of Ice Cream received from other licensed manufacturers.

The Health Department took 23 samples of Ice Cream during the year and details of these samples are as follows:—

21 Hot Mix	—	Grade 1	—	7 samples
		.. 2	—	3 ..
		.. 3	—	10 ..
		.. 4	—	1 sample
2 Cold Mix	—	Grade 1	—	1 sample
		.. 2	—	1 ..

Samples of Ice Cream for fat content, taken by the County Weights and Measures Inspectors, read as follows:—

Source of Production.				Fat Content.
Davenham	...	...	...	1.7%
St. Helens	...	...	...	13.8%
Barnton	...	...	...	2.2%

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Rural District during the year 1949:—

Name of Sample.		Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.	
Baking Powder	...	2	...	—
Boracic Ointment	...	1	...	—
Borax (Powdered)	...	1	...	—
Bread (White)	...	1	...	—
Camphorated Oil	...	1	...	—
Castor Oil	...	1	...	—
Cocoa	...	1	...	—
Custard (Baby Food)	...	1	...	—
Flavouring Essences	...	3	...	—
Gelatine	...	2	...	—
Gravy Browning	...	1	...	—
Jams	...	1	...	—
MILK (Fresh)	...	30	...	2
Pepper (White)	...	1	...	—
Pudding Mixtures	...	1	...	1
Yeast Tablets	...	2	...	—
Zinc Ointment	...	1	...	—
Total		51	...	3

Particulars of Non-standard Samples.

No.	Sample.	Analysis.	Remarks.
1.	Milk	38.2% deficient in fat.	Retail sale. Sample contained 2.5% of fat instead of the Standard of 3%, but the deficiency is based on the fact that a corresponding follow-up sample contained 4% of fat. Retailer was cautioned.
2.	Milk	8.3% of extraneous water.	Retail sale from van. When purchase was made retailer tried to push churn he was serving from behind others and supply sample out of a different churn. He was prosecuted and fined £1. together with £2 costs.
3.	Pudding Powder	Infested with grain mites — unfit for human consumption	Full particulars sent to the appropriate Sanitary Inspector in order that stock in shop could be condemned.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of Measles and Scarlet Fever, was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever	73	73	—
Pneumonia	23	3	1
Erysipelas	2	2	—
Measles	229	21	—
Whooping Cough	38	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	6	5	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	1
Typhoid... ..	1	1	—

Of the 6 cases of Poliomyelitis, 4 were admitted to Davenham Isolation Hospital, 1 to Clatterbridge Hospital and 1 was a mild case not requiring Hospital treatment. One of the 4 admissions to Davenham died on the day of admission.

Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local Doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department where needed.

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Periods.		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	„ ...	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	„ ...	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25-35	„ ...	2	6	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45	„ ...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-55	„ ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	„ ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	8	9	3	2	4	1	—	—

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
183	197	215	243	257	272	238	244	229	229	232

(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

No. of children who have completed treatment during
1949 230

(4) VACCINATIONS.

No. of children who have been vaccinated during 1949 144

(5) IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH.

No. of children who have been treated during 1949 ... 59

(6) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made in 1942 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee for the treatment of Scabies and Pediculosis patients worked very satisfactorily during 1949. Patients of the Rural District receive cleansing treatment at the Northwich Cleansing Centre.

The reduction in the increase of Scabies since 1942 can be gathered from the following:—

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases of Scabies	755	453	399	243	233	119	28	15
Cases of Pediculosis	25	12	12	17	2	1	—	1
Total	780	465	411	260	235	120	28	16
No. of Households involved	270	184	169	119	101	62	18	10

(7) DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

The disinfection of 163 premises was carried out during the year, as follows:—

For Vermin (using D.D.T. & Gammexane)	...	...	24 houses
For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding)	20	..	
For Infectious Diseases	...	...	119 ..

(8) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Burial of the Dead.

In this connection, 2 burials were carried out by the Authority

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1950.

